



2008 Pain and Policy Report Card and Evaluation Guide *Grade changes between 2007 and 2008*

Georgia

Changed from D+ to B by adopting a provision recognizing that the medical use of opioids is part of legitimate professional practice, and by replacing the oldest existing medical board guideline (adopted in 1991 and containing three restrictive provisions) with a policy based on the Federation of State Medical Board's "Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain."

Maine

Changed from B to B+ by adopting a provision recognizing that the medical use of opioids is part of legitimate professional practice.

Minnesota

Changed from B to B+ by adopting the requirements to evaluate whether requiring a valid photo ID when purchasing a Schedule II controlled substance and the electronic prescription monitoring program become barriers to medication access, and by adopting a medical board policy based on the Federation of State Medical Board's "Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain."

Oregon

Changed from B+ to A by repealing the term "intractable pain" from statute.

Rhode Island

Changed from B to B+ by adopting a provision establishing a responsibility for hospice facilities to ensure that pain management is an essential part of patient care, and by repealing a statutory provision that seemed to be inconsistent with another provision in the same policy, and created ambiguity about whether a practitioner was permitted to use opioids to treat pain in a person with a history of substance abuse.

Utah

Changed from B to B+ by adopting legislation creating a harm reduction program for prescription opioids, which includes, among other things, a requirement to educate practitioners, patients, insurers, and the public about the appropriate and effective management of chronic pain and the obligation to measure the program's effectiveness.

Washington

Changed from B to B+ by adopting an osteopathic board policy based on the Federation of State Medical Board's "Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain."

Report Card Highlights

- Georgia showed the largest grade improvement in 2008, increasing from a D+ to a B.
- Oregon achieved an A in 2008, joining Kansas, Michigan, Virginia, and Wisconsin as having the most balanced pain policies in the country.
- No state's grade decreased since 2000.